

What is claimed is:

1. A patellar prosthesis comprising:
 - a first subcomponent;
 - a boss operably connected to the first subcomponent; and
 - a second subcomponent operably connected to the boss, the second subcomponent comprising,
 - a first side, the first side having (i) a channel therein, (ii) a boss retaining region operable to retain the boss within the channel when the boss is inserted into the channel, and (iii) a boss assembly region operable to facilitate the insertion of the boss into the channel.
2. The patellar prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the first subcomponent comprises a base and wherein the second subcomponent comprises an articulating subcomponent.
3. The patellar prosthesis of claim 1, wherein:
 - the boss comprises a stem and a head having a width;
 - the channel has a first side and a second side, the second side spaced apart from the first side by a first distance; and
 - the boss retaining region comprises a lip, a first section having width and a second section having a width, the first section of the lip located on the first side of the channel and the second section of the lip located on the second side of the channel, the width of the head being greater than the first distance of the channel minus the width of the first section of the lip and minus the width of the second section of the lip.
4. The patellar prosthesis of claim 3, wherein the boss retaining lip has a flexibility, and wherein the assembly region comprises a lip having a flexibility, the flexibility of the assembly region lip greater than the flexibility of the boss retaining lip.

5. The patellar prosthesis of claim 3, wherein the boss assembly region comprises a slot in the boss retaining lip.
6. The patellar prosthesis of claim 1, wherein:
 - the boss comprises a threaded head; and
 - the boss assembly region comprises a threaded lip.
7. The patellar prosthesis of claim 6, further comprising:
 - a spin stop operably connected to the first subcomponent, and wherein the second subcomponent further comprises:
 - a spin stop receiving chamber, the spin stop receiving chamber configured to receive the spin stop when the second subcomponent, boss and first subcomponent are assembled.
8. The patellar prosthesis of claim 7, wherein the spin stop is movable into the first subcomponent such that, when the spin stop is moved into the first subcomponent, the second subcomponent is free to be threaded onto or off of the threaded head of the boss.
9. The patellar prosthesis of claim 8, wherein the spin stop is retractable into the first subcomponent.
10. The patellar prosthesis of claim 1, further comprising:
 - a spin stop operably connected to the first subcomponent, and wherein the second subcomponent further comprises:
 - a spin stop receiving chamber, the spin stop receiving chamber configured to receive the spin stop when the second subcomponent, boss and first subcomponent are assembled.

11. The patellar prosthesis of claim 10, wherein the spin stop is retractable into the first subcomponent.
12. The patellar prosthesis of claim 11, wherein the spin stop receiving chamber is configured such that when the spin stop is received into the spin stop receiving chamber and the boss is retained within the channel the boss cannot be moved to the boss assembly region.
13. The patellar prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the boss assembly region is offset from the channel.
14. The patellar prosthesis of claim 13, further comprising:
 - a spin stop operably connected to the first subcomponent, and wherein the second subcomponent further comprises:
 - a spin stop receiving chamber with a loading region, the loading region of the spin top chamber configured such that when the boss is being inserted into the channel through the boss assembly region, the spin stop is inserted into the spin top chamber loading region.
15. The patellar prosthesis of claim 1, wherein:
 - the boss comprises a stem and a keyed head; and
 - the boss assembly region comprises a keyed area, the keyed area of the boss assembly region configured to substantially align with the keyed head of the boss.
16. The patellar prosthesis of claim 1 wherein:
 - the first subcomponent comprises a channel; and
 - the boss comprises a first head, a second head, and a stem, the first head and the second head each having a width substantially greater than the width of the stem, the first head configured to be retained within the channel of the first

subcomponent and the second head configured to be constrained within the channel of the second subcomponent.

17. A patellar prosthesis comprising:
 - a first subcomponent;
 - a spin limiting boss having a head with at least one limiting segment, the spin limiting boss operably connected to the first subcomponent; and
 - a second subcomponent having a channel, the channel rotatably retaining the head of the boss and configured such that when the at least one limiting segment is positioned athwart the channel, rotation of the first subcomponent with respect to the boss is restricted in one direction, and such that when the at least one limiting segment is not positioned athwart the channel, rotation of the first subcomponent with respect to the boss is not restricted by the limiting segment.
18. The patellar prosthesis of claim 17, wherein:
 - the first subcomponent comprises an articulating subcomponent; and
 - the second subcomponent comprises a base subcomponent.
19. The patellar prosthesis of claim 17, wherein the head of the boss comprises a second limiting segment, such that when the first limiting segment is positioned athwart the channel, rotation of the first subcomponent with respect to the boss is restricted in a first direction but not in a second direction, and such that when the second limiting segment is positioned athwart the channel, rotation of the first subcomponent with respect to the boss is restricted in the second direction but not in the first direction.
20. The patellar prosthesis of claim 19 wherein the head is generally in the shape of a triangle.

21. The patellar prosthesis of claim 19 wherein the head is generally in the shape of a quadrilateral.
22. A patellar prosthesis comprising:
 - a first subcomponent having a spin stop receiving chamber;
 - a second subcomponent rotatably connectable to the first subcomponent and having a first surface and a spin stop movable in relation to the first surface.
23. The patellar prosthesis of claim 22, wherein the first subcomponent comprises an articulating subcomponent.
24. The patellar prosthesis of claim 22, wherein the spin stop is movable into the first surface.
25. The patellar prosthesis of claim 24, further comprising:
 - a biasing member operably connected to the spin stop such that the spin stop is biased in a direction out of the second subcomponent.
26. The patellar prosthesis of claim 25, wherein the biasing member comprises a spring, the prosthesis further comprising:
 - a compressing bar operably connected to the spring such that movement of the compressing bar effects movement of the spring.
27. The patellar prosthesis of claim 25, wherein the first subcomponent comprises:
 - a second surface configured to complimentarily lay upon the first surface of the second subcomponent;
 - a spin stop receiving chamber opening to the second surface; and
 - a ramp having a first end adjacent to the spin stop receiving chamber, the first end of the ramp substantially co-planar with the second surface of the first subcomponent.

28. The patellar prosthesis of claim 24, wherein the second subcomponent comprises:

a retracting screw, the retracting screw operably connected to the spin stop such that rotation of the retracting screw in a first direction causes the spin stop to move in a direction into the second subcomponent, and such that rotation of the retracting screw in a second direction causes the spin stop to move in a direction out of the second subcomponent.

29. The patellar prosthesis of claim 22, wherein the first and second subcomponents are rotatably connected by a boss the first subcomponent further comprising:

a first side;

a channel opening to the first side and having a boss retaining region operable to retain the boss within the channel when the boss is inserted into the boss retaining region of the channel, and a boss assembly region operable to facilitate the insertion of the boss into the channel, and wherein the movable spin stop and the spin stop receiving chamber are configured such that when the first subcomponent is rotatably connected to the second subcomponent and the boss is retained within the boss retaining region, the boss is restrained from moving within the channel to the boss assembly region.

30. A patellar replacement component base comprising:

a generally planar bone contacting surface lying in a first plane; and
a generally planar articulating component contact surface generally opposite the bone contacting surface and lying in a second plane, wherein the first plane and the second plane are intersecting planes.

31. A patellar replacement component base comprising:

a generally planar bone contacting surface lying in a first plane;

a dome shaped articulating component contact surface generally opposite the bone contacting surface; and

a boss having a stem extending from the dome shaped articulating component contact surface along a line, the line of the stem intersecting the bone contacting surface plane at an angle of other than 90 degrees.

32. A method of installing a patellar replacement component comprising the steps of:

imaging a natural patella;

determining an angle of resection; and

resecting the natural patella along a line rotated from a line defined by the quadriceps tendon and the patellar tendon of the natural patella, by the determined angle of resection.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein the step of resecting comprises the step of:

guiding the resection with imagery.

34. The method of claim 32, further comprising the steps of:

adjusting a cutting guide based upon the determined angle; and

attaching the cutting guide to the natural patella using the quadriceps tendon and the patellar tendon as a reference.

35. A patellar prosthesis comprising:

a base subcomponent comprising (i) a surface that is curved along a first axis and straight along a second axis, the second axis orthogonal to the first axis, and (ii) a boss extending from the surface; and

an articulating subcomponent comprising (i) a bearing surface curved along a first axis and straight along a second axis, the second axis orthogonal to the first axis, the first and second axis of the bearing surface generally aligned with the first axis and second axis of the base subcomponent surface, and (ii) a

channel opening to the bearing surface and generally aligned along the first axis, the channel movably retaining the boss, such that the articulating component is allowed to move rotationally about the second axis of the base subcomponent.

- 36 The patellar prosthesis of claim 35, wherein the first axis of the base extends in the medial-lateral direction.
37. The patellar prosthesis of claim 35, wherein the curve of the surface of the base has a first radius of curvature, and the curve of the bearing surface has a second radius of curvature, the second radius of curvature larger than the first radius of curvatuire.